

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT
SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on military installation, environmental, and base closure programs in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 12, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Generation Rx: The Abuse of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs" on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness list

Len Paulozzi, M.D., Medical Epidemiologist, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Atlanta, GA; Nora Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Washington, DC; Steve Pasierb, President and CEO, The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, New York, NY; Derek Clark, Director, Clinton Substance Abuse Council, Clinton, IA; and Misty Fetko, RN, Parent of Carl Hennon, New Albany, OH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND
CAPABILITIES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on technologies to combat weapons of mass destruction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Agencies in Peril: Are We Doing Enough to Protect Federal IT and Secure Sensitive Information?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWERS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on strategic lift programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 10 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on strategic forces programs in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jack Wells, a fellow on my staff, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on the budget resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
13, 2008

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:15 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired,

the leader time be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there be a moment of silence to honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families for the war in Iraq and also to remember those who are serving our Nation in Afghanistan and throughout the world; that following the moment of silence, the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, the concurrent resolution on the budget, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, tomorrow, following the moment of silence, the Senate will resume consideration of the budget resolution. Senators should be prepared to begin the so-called vote-arama as early as 11 a.m. tomorrow. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CASEY. I now ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed, the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, and that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators GRASSLEY and BARRASSO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—
Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise for two purposes: one, to speak about an amendment that will come up tomorrow dealing with the alternative minimum tax and, on a second point, to speak against an amendment that will be offered tomorrow on the H-1B program. First, I will discuss the amendments I intend to pursue on the budget resolution.

The first is similar to the amendment I offered in committee markup. Unfortunately, the committee did not adopt the amendment. The amendment is very straightforward. The amendment would exempt from the pay-go requirements an extension of relief from the alternative minimum tax. I want to explain the term pay-go. It means if you are going to offer something that has less income coming in from taxes, you have to offset it someplace else. Pay-go is a rule that applies to both taxes as well as expenditures. It is pay as you go.

I want to make sure this doesn't apply to the AMT because, quite frankly, it is silly to talk about offsetting revenue from middle-class Americans from whom it was never intended to be collected in the first place. And the alternative minimum tax, if we don't do something about it, has that negative impact. As everyone knows, if we do